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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/088,399	03/19/2002	Rony Zarom	Q69045	2948
23373	7590	08/27/2007	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			TESLOVICH, TAMARA	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2137				
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08/27/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/088,399	ZAROM ET AL.
	Examiner Tamara Teslovich	Art Unit 2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 May 2007.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1, 4-8, 11-15, 19-20 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 31, 2007 has been entered.

Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, and 18 are currently cancelled.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15, and 19 are currently amended.

Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15, and 19-20 are currently pending and herein considered.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments and amendments filed May 31, 2007 with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-20 under 35 USC 102(e) under Radia have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of United States Patent No. 6,098,172 to Coss et al.

Applicant's arguments and amendments filed May 31, 2007 with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-20 under 35 USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

**Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Coss et al., United States Patent 6,098,172, hereinafter referred to as Coss.**

As per **claim 1**, Coss discloses a method for presorting a plurality of rules for filtering a packet in network, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a characteristic for sorting the plurality of rules, wherein said characteristic is at least one of a source address and a destination address (col.1 line 63 thru col.2 line 4, col.4 lines 17-33);  
associating each rule with at least one of a plurality of values for said characteristic (col.4 lines 17-33);

presorting at a network security filter the plurality of rules according to each value for said characteristic ("firewall") (col.1 lines 6-8 and 59-67);

receiving the packet at the network security filter ("firewall") (col.1 lines 6-8 and 59-67);

analyzing information in the packet to retrieve from the received packet one of said values (col.9 lines 1-33);

selecting at least one of the presorted plurality of rules according to said one value retrieved from the received packet, wherein the selected rule is associated with said one value (col.9 lines 1-33); and

applying said selected rule to the received packet, such that the received packet is permitted to enter the network or alternatively is dropped in accordance with the selected rule (col.1 line 59 thru col.2 line 4, col.4 lines 40-50).

As per **claim 4**, Coss discloses wherein said characteristic is a combination of said source address of the packet and said destination address of the packet (col.2 lines 1-4, col.4 lines 17-33).

As per **claim 5**, Coss discloses wherein a user is associated with each value such that said associating each rule with at least one value for said characteristic further comprise assigning at least one privilege to a user and determining whether to associate each rule with said value of said characteristic according to said at least one privilege (col.1 lines 63-67, col.2 lines 38-41, col.8 lines 3-35).

As per **claim 6**, Coss discloses wherein said assigning at least one privilege to said user further comprises determining a user profile of associated rules according to said at least one privilege (col.1 lines 63-67, col.2 lines 38-41, col.8 lines 3-35).

As per **claim 7**, Coss discloses associating a user profile with a group profile, such that a plurality of values for said characteristic is associated with said associated rules of said group profile (col.2 lines 38-42).

As per **claim 8**, Coss discloses an apparatus for presorting a plurality of rules for filtering a packet in network, wherein a characteristic for sorting the plurality of rules is at least one of a source address and a destination address (col.1 line 63 thru col.2 line 4), said characteristic has a plurality of possible values, and each rule is associated with at least one value for said characteristic, the apparatus comprising:

a software module for performing the operations of:  
presorting at a network security filter("firewall") (col.1 lines 6-8 and 59-67) the plurality of rules according to each value for said characteristic (col.1 line 63 thru col.2 line 4);  
analyzing information in the packet received at the network security filter ("firewall") to retrieve from the packet a value for said characteristic (col.9 lines 1-33);

selecting at least one of the presorted plurality of rules according to said value retrieved from the packet wherein the selected rule is associated with said value (col.1 line 59 thru col.2 line 4, col.4 lines 40-50); and

applying said selected rule to the packet, such that the packet is permitted to enter the network or alternatively is dropped in accordance with selected rule (col.1 line 59 thru col.2 line 4, col.4 lines 40-50).

As per **claim 11**, Coss discloses wherein said characteristic is a combination of said source address of the packet and said destination address of the packet (col.2 lines 1-4, col.4 lines 17-33).

As per **claim 12**, Coss discloses wherein a user is associated with each value of said characteristic such that the software module further performs the operations of assigning at least one privilege to a user and determining whether to associate each rule with said value according to said at least one privilege (col.1 lines 63-67, col.2 lines 38-41, col.8 lines 3-35).

As per **claim 13**, Coss discloses wherein said assigning at least one privilege to said user further comprises determining a user profile of associated rules according to said at least one privilege (col.1 lines 63-67, col.2 lines 38-41, col.8 lines 3-35).

As per **claim 14**, Coss discloses associating a user profile with a group profile, such that a plurality of values for said characteristic is associated with said associated rules of said group profile (col.2 lines 38-42).

As per **claim 15**, Coss discloses a computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for presorting a plurality of rules for filtering a packet received at a network security filter, the computer program product comprising computer readable program code for performing the operations of:

selecting a characteristic for sorting the plurality of rules, said characteristic has a plurality of possible values, wherein said characteristic is at least one of a source address and a destination address (col.1 line 63 thru col.2 line 4);

associating each rule with at least one value for said characteristic (col.4 lines 17-33),

presorting at a network security filter ("firewall") (col.1 lines 6-8 and 59-67) the plurality of rules according to each value for said characteristic;

analyzing information in the packet received at a network security filter to retrieve said value from the packet and selecting at least one of the presorted plurality of rules according to said value retrieved from the packet wherein the selected rule is associated with said value (col.9 lines 1-33); and

applying said selected rule to the received packet, such that the received packet is permitted to enter the network or alternatively is dropped in accordance with said selected rule (col.1 line 59 thru col.2 line 4, col.4 lines 40-50).

As per **claim 19**, Coss discloses wherein said characteristic is a combination of the source address of the packet and the destination address of the packet (col.1 line 63 thru col.2 line 4, col.4 lines 17-33).

As per **claim 20**, Coss discloses wherein a user is associated with each value of said characteristic such that said computer readable program code further comprises the operations of assigning at least one privilege to a user and determining whether to associate each rule with said value of said characteristic according to said at least one privilege (col.1 lines 63-67, col.2 lines 38-41, col.8 lines 3-35).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tamara Teslovich whose telephone number is (571) 272-4241. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-4:30.

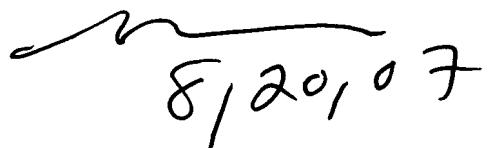
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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8/20/07